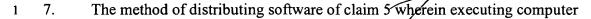
CLAIMS

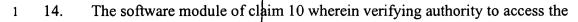
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1. A method of distributing software with a computer system to a user comprising the acts of:
- 3 recording data on a fixed medium in the computer system;
- 4 providing for transfer of the computer system to the user; and
- 5 controlling access to the data through computer executable code that requires
- 6 authorization for continued access to the data.
 - 2. The method of distributing software of claim 1 wherein the act of recording data on the fixed medium includes recording software application program instructions on the fixed medium.
- 1 3. The method of distributing software of claim 2 wherein recording software
- 2 application program instructions on the fixed medium includes recording software
- application program instructions that enable a software application that does not
- 4 depend on continued access to a network for fully functional operation.
- 1 4. The method of distributing software of claim 1 wherein the act of recording
- data on the fixed medium includes recording data on a hard disk drive.
- The method of distributing software of claim 1 wherein the act of controlling
- 2 access to the data/includes the computer system automatically executing computer
- 3 readable instructions to contact a party authorized to grant access to the data.
- 1 6. The method of distributing software of claim 5 wherein executing computer
- 2 readable instructions includes executing instructions to activate a network link.



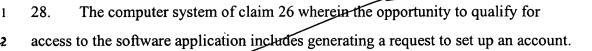
- 2 readable instructions includes executing instructions to activate access to the Internet.
- The method of distributing software of claim 1 wherein the act of controlling access to the data includes determining if a user has a sufficient account credit to continue access to the data.
 - 9. The method of distributing software of claim 1 wherein the act of controlling
 - 2 access to the data includes determining if a user should be billed for accessing the
 - 3 data.

- 10. A software module used in a computer system operable to provide controlled access to a software application being stored on a fixed medium in the computer system and being distributed with the computer system, the software module
- 4 operating by:
- detecting use of the software application on the computer system; and
- 6 verifying authority to access the software application.
 - V11. The software module of claim 10 wherein the software application does not depend on continued access to a network for fully functional operation.
- 1 12. The software module of claim 10 wherein the software module and the
- 2 software application are stored on the computer system during manufacture of the
- 3 computer system.
- 1 13. The software module of claim 10 wherein verifying authority to access the
- 2 software application verifies authority of a particular user to access the software
- 3 application.



- 2 software application verifies authority of an accessing computer system to access the
- 3 A software application.
 - 15. The software module of claim 10 wherein verifying authority to access the software application is accomplished through a network connection.
- 1 16. The software module of claim 10 wherein verifying authority to access the
- 2 software application is accomplished through an Internet interface.
 - 17. The software module of claim 10 further comprising: if authority is verified, then allowing uninterrupted access to the software application; and
- 4 if authority is not verified, then interrupting access to the software application.
 - 18. The software module of claim 17 wherein if authority to access the software application is not verified, then the user is presented with an opportunity to qualify for access to the software application.
- 1 19. The software module of claim 18 wherein the opportunity to qualify for access
- to the software application includes generating a request to set up an account.
- 1 20. The software module of claim 17 wherein if authority to access the software
- 2 application is not verified, then the user's access to the software application is
- 3 terminated.
 - 21. A computer system operable to provide controlled access to a software application stored on a fixed medium in the computer system and distributed with the
- 3 computer system comprising:
- 4 a processor;

5	a memory coupled to the processor; and
6	a software module executable on the processor and the memory, the software module
7	being responsive to the activation of the software application to:
8	verify authority to access the software application;
9	if authority is verified, then to allow uninterrupted access to the software
10	application; and
11	if authority is not verified, then to interrupt access to the software application.
1	22. The computer system of claim 21 wherein the accessed software application
2	does not depend on continued access to a network for fully functional operation.
1	23. The computer system of claim 21 wherein verifying authority to access the
2	software application verifies authority of a particular user to access the software
3	application.
V	
A	24. The computer system of claim 21 wherein verifying authority to access the
12	software application verifies authority of an accessing computer system to access the
(³	software application.
1	25. The computer system of claim 21 wherein verifying authority to access the
2	software application is accomplished through a network connection.
1	26. The computer system of claim 21 wherein verifying authority to access the
2	software application is accomplished through an Internet interface.
1	27. The computer system of claim 21 wherein if authority to access the software
2	application is not verified, then the user is presented with an opportunity to qualify for
3	access to the software application.



29. The computer system of claim 21 wherein if authority to access the software application is not verified, then the user's access to the software application is terminated.